



News in brief

Students host candidate forum

Members of the Romulus High School National Honor Society will pose questions to the five residents seeking a term on the Romulus board of education this year.

The candidate forum will take place at 6 p.m. on April 7 at the Romulus district headquarters at 36540 Grant Road.

Candidates will answer pre-determined questions, and residents will have the opportunity to meet with the candidates after the session.

This year, five contenders are seeking two open positions. Board members are elected on a revolving basis, and serve four-year terms.

For more information on the forum, call the district offices at (734) 532-1600.

Glomb appointed to ALEAN board

Edward Glomb, the chief of the Wayne County Airport Authority Police, has been appointed to board of directors for ALEAN, or the Airport Law Enforcement Agencies Network.

"I am honored to be selected for this board," said Glomb. "ALEAN plays a significant role in the ability of airports to share real time intelligence and in benchmarking best practices for airport law enforcement professionals."

ALEAN is a national, non-profit organization, with nearly 100 United States airport member agencies. The group facilitates the communication of intelligence among airport law enforcement agencies worldwide. Airports in Canada and the United Kingdom, as well as agencies such as the FBI, Interpol and the U.S. Secret Service maintain adjunct memberships.

Glomb was hired as chief of the airport police in 2005. He has also served as chief in Franklin, Mich., for 11 years, and in the Wayne County Sheriff's Department.

He is a Vietnam veteran and Green Beret who served with the 5th Special Forces Group.

College hosts open house April 15

Henry Ford Community College (HFCC) will hold an open house for prospective students from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-8 p.m. on April 15 at the main campus, located at 5101 Evergreen Road in Dearborn.

Potential students of all ages and experience will have the opportunity to learn about more than 100 different associate degree and certificate programs offered at the college and get information on financial aid and other student services. High school students can learn more about how to earn college credit while still in high school, and more experienced individuals looking for additional training or a career change can learn how HFCC can help them.

Attendees can tour campus with a student ambassador and view demonstrations in various classrooms and labs. Students and faculty representing on-campus organizations and activities will be

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THE ROMULU ROMAN

Vol. 120, No. 14

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Lined up

Opening day at the Romulus Athletic Center brought in a modest group of people who secured memberships at the facility. The center, which is the first of its kind in Romulus, has been under construction for more than two years at Northline and Wayne roads.

Demolition of 6 properties OK'd

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

The plan to remove vacant and unusable homes and buildings in Romulus is moving ahead in the next several weeks with the demolition of six properties.

Last week at the regular meeting, Romulus City Council members voted to award a bid to Van Assche Brothers Construction to demolish properties at 11389 Gabriel, 11239 Hunt, 11519 Hunt, 9784 Lisa, 35945 Bibbins and 29094 Ecorse.

The city will pay Van Assche, the lowest of 16 bidders, \$26,000 to demolish the structures.

The buildings are the latest among more than 200 that have been removed during the past five years, said Mayor Alan Lambert.

"It's been a long time since we had the buildings torn down, and in a couple of cases, we've had new buildings constructed on those

It's been a long time since we had the buildings torn down, and in a couple of cases, we've had new buildings constructed on those sites.

Mayor Alan Lambert

sites," he said.

Abandoned and blighted buildings have long been a concern for residents and city officials. The reason the city decided to undertake the long and arduous process of clearing buildings for demolition was the negative impact on property

values.

"I don't think anyone likes living around them, and they were definitely unsafe," Lambert said.

Operation Fresh Look, the city anti-blight program, was created to answer the call for the buildings to be torn down, but the process doesn't always move smoothly.

Sometimes building owners will ask for extensions to fix properties, and though most start with good intentions, some don't have the resources to rehabilitate the property, said Randy McMahan, the chief building manager for the city.

"The vast majority of these structures are so damaged that they're not even contested," he said. "But there are ones that people say they can rehabilitate."

"There are some that people believe they can rehabilitate, though, and they are given and

See Demolition, page 4

Intersections cited in safety report

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

None of the intersections in Romulus made it into the top 50 most accident-prone areas in southeast Michigan, but five racked up more than 100 accidents in five years, according to a recently-released report of vehicle accident rankings by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG).

The study, "High Crash Intersections" measures accident totals from 2002-2006. During that five-year period, 178 crashes occurred at Cherry Hill and Middlebelt, and 175 occurred at Cherry Hill and Inkster.

In Romulus, 155 accidents

occurred at the intersection of Merriman and Van Born roads. A mile down on Middlebelt and Van Born, another 129 occurred.

The Interstate 94 Service Drive and Wick Road had 109, Eureka and Wayne roads had 104, and Ecorse and Inkster had 102.

Tom Bruff, the engineering analyst for SEMCOG, said the study is done to inform people about what's happening on roadways.

"The rankings are done to make sure we have an idea of what's happening, and also to provide tools necessary to solve a problem, whether it be through additional enforcement or by addressing other aspects (of an intersection)," he said.

"One thing we would look at is

the level of speed on a given roadway, and also the signalality of the roadway," he said. "We would look to see if a left-turn lane is needed, if there should be right-turn signal, anything that may make the road safer," he said.

However, Bruff said the number of accidents isn't the only determining factor in whether an intersection is dangerous.

"If you have a road that has a high level of traffic, there's going to be more accidents," he said. "It doesn't necessarily mean the intersection is dangerous."

The data collected for the study comes from accident reports that

See Intersection, page 4

County supports expansion

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

During the discussion about the Wayne County Airport Authority plan to expand Detroit Metropolitan Airport, the city of Romulus, residents, businesses and authority officials have weighed in.

But Wayne County – which has a vested interest in seeing the airport expand and maintaining equilibrium for the city that opposes the plan – has remained silent, until this week.

Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano, in a carefully-worded statement released in response to inquiries from The Romulus Roman, appears to have moved away from a neutral position in favor of airport expansion and adding a fifth runway, but steered clear of endorsing the plan under consideration by the authority.

"In order to compete globally, the airport will have to expand," said Ficano. "Larger planes are being built and runways are needed to accommodate their needs. The airport employs thousands of people and the expansion would only translate into more jobs."

"However, we encourage the airport authority to listen to reasonable concerns of citizens and accommodate legitimate issues," he said.

Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert – a vocal opponent of the expansion plan – said he's not surprised the county is taking a vague approach to the issue.

"I don't think anyone is against expansion, but this plan would hurt us," he said. "I'm not really surprised about the county . . . I think once the facts come out, they'll see this differently."

Plan controversial

The Airport Master Plan, which was devised by consultants hired by the authority in 2006, was undertaken by the airport in accordance to Federal Aviation Administration rules to devise a plan to meet what airport officials believe will be increased usage by business and leisure travelers in the next two decades, according to airport officials.

If implemented, the plan would effectively reduce the size of the City of Romulus by about 7 percent, and potentially by 3,500 residents.

Among the changes is the addition of a fifth parallel runway along Eureka Road. The runway remains the most controversial part of the plan because many businesses and homes would have to be demolished to provide adequate space.

An underground or above-ground monorail system could be added to transport travelers and employees around the airport grounds by 2013. A cargo operation could be added near the Wayne-Vining Road area.

The toll on the city would be the loss of the 350-unit Sky Harbor Apartments, 30 industrial buildings, 18 commercial buildings, at least one subdivision, and

See Plan, page 4

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‘Hearts go out’ to family of museum volunteer

Andrea King
 Staff Writer

Deborah Stewart, a long-time volunteer at the Yankee Air Museum in Belleville, died March 12.

Mrs. Stewart, 53, succumbed to post operative complications, according to her family. She lived in Van Buren Township with her husband of 36 years, Richard. Together they raised two children: William Stewart and Tracey Frienk. She also has two grandchildren—Mathew, 6, and Carter; 3.

Mrs. Stewart started at the Yankee Air Museum on Memorial Day in 1995. Through her years there, she volunteered for many events, parties, air shows and the annual “Hearts Go Out To Yankee” charity dinner and auction. Her most recent role was events coordi-

”
*She was a great mother,
 a great friend and this was her home.*
 Richard Stewart

nator and she was already working on this upcoming air show, as well. Besides her love of life, Mrs. Stewart was passionate about the Yankee Air Museum, according to friends and family.

“She was outgoing, fun-loving, caring and she was my best friend,” said Richard Stewart, who first met his wife when she was 12 years old. “It was amazing how many people she attracted.”

When people turn to the sky, Deborah Stewart is there watching over her loved ones, her family said.

“She was a great mother, a great

friend and this was her home,” said Richard Stewart. “She has so many kids all over because she got along with everybody. They respected her and she was great with anyone she came into contact with. We were total opposites, but she taught me so much.”

Her co-workers from the Yankee Air Museum said Mrs. Stewart will be remembered for all the work she did in and for the museum.

“She was great,” said Speed Gant, corporate secretary for the Yankee Air Museum. “I joined more than a year ago and spent time

working with her on the air shows, where she did an outstanding job. She was right on the line with you, getting things done.

“Both her and Richard were a great team together,” he added.

Jon Stevens, vice-president of the museum, said Mrs. Stewart was one of the anchors of the Yankee Air Museum.

“She kept things going, she was a lot of fun and I’ll remember her smile until the day I die,” he said. “She had a lot of energy and worked hard for the betterment of the museum.

“She worked on a variety of things and made a lot of friends,” he added. “I’m going to miss her.”

The Stewart family has requested memorial contributions be made to the Yankee Air Museum in Deborah Stewart’s name.



Deborah Stewart



Special guest

Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara went to the Belleville Rotary Club recently to talk about increasing budget challenges and maintaining roads and bridges in the area. He also spoke about increased budget needs for the county prosecutor’s office in association with the trial of Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick. McNamara also answered many questions from Rotarians regarding roads, bridges, posted speed limits and the placement of Rotary Club signs at entry points to the community, according to officials.

Local printer planning ‘green initiative’ event

Andrea King
 Staff Writer

Grand River Printing & Imaging in Belleville is working their ‘green’ side to help the environment and educate people.

The Earth Day 2008 educational event on “Print and Sustainability” will take place for two sessions—from 9-11 a.m. and from 6:30-8:30 p.m.—on April 22 at the Detroit Zoo Ford Educational Center.

Environmental sustainability is an important strategic issue for corporations, governments and organizations all over the world, according to Grand River Printing & Imaging.

“There’s been a lot of interest in sustainability as it relates to paper based materials and since it’s a relatively new initiative, there’s a need for education. That’s why we’re doing this,” said Kevin Donley, vice president of sales and marketing for the organization.

The event is directed toward business, marketing, advertising or

publishing professionals who need to have up-to-date information about the opportunities available for participation in the latest green initiatives.

Earth Day was first established in 1970 to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the natural environment.

“Every organization or company prints something and it’s important to know where that paper is coming from,” said Donley.

Certification programs currently available from print media, purchasers and publishing industries, along with ways to add value to company solutions by offering print products that are environmentally appropriate and “green” will also be available.

Breakfast will start at 8 a.m. and a dinner buffet and cash bar will take place at 5:30 p.m. prior to the evening session. The event is free. For more information or to register, visit www.regonline.com/earth-day2008 or call (734) 394-3621. Registration is open until April 15.

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Meet Junior Miss

Local women compete for state title

Lester L. Holmes, Jr.
Staff Writer

After becoming the first sanctioned Junior-Miss scholarship competition participant from the Plymouth community in more than two decades, 17-year old Erin Wheeler will now represent the entire state.

Wheeler, a city of Plymouth resident who is a senior at Ladywood High School in Livonia, beat 17 other high school seniors, including several from western Wayne County, to become the 2008 Michigan Junior Miss. In addition to receiving a \$3,500 scholarship award, Wheeler will participate in the America's Junior-Miss competition in Mobile, AL this June.

The Junior-Miss scholarship program is the oldest and largest scholarship program for high school seniors in the country in which high school seniors are judged on talent, physical fitness, self-expression, scholastic achievement and an interview. The participants the event last weekend received more than \$9,000 in scholarship awards. The state program winners will have an opportunity to earn more than \$150,000 in scholarship money. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the program.

Wheeler who said she went into the competition "not expecting anything" has come away humbled from the experience of partici-

pating in the state program and is ready to compete on the national stage.

"I'm overwhelmed. By far this is the biggest thing that's ever happened to me in my entire life," said Wheeler who will attend Central Michigan University this fall to study elementary education and early childhood development.

Jan Sickle-Witte, a member of the state Junior Miss executive committee, who described this year's class as "the best group of contestants we've ever had" said Wheeler is "great high school senior" and expects her to do well this summer.

"(Wheeler) is just an all around-everything (the judges) look for type of girl. She's great and we're thrilled to have her as our representative."

While being excited about her opportunity to advance to Mobil, the lasting memory of Wheeler's experience in the program has nothing to do with winning.

"I've become close friends with so many of the other girls in the program, said Wheeler who exchanged telephone numbers and email addresses with the other contestants.

Wheeler said the group would remain close during their matriculation through col-

lege and beyond.

"We will keep in touch," she added.

Raven Rickard, of Westland received a \$2,500 scholarship for finishing as 1st Runner-Up. Whitney Askew of Canton Township was awarded a \$500 talent award and City of Inkster resident Kiana Sledge was awarded a \$250 Sprit of Junior Miss award.



Erin Wheeler, 2008 Michigan Junior Miss



The seven young women who made it to the final round of the competition were (front row, from left to right) Adrienne Linskey of Prudenville, Kiana Sledge of Inkster, Erin Wheeler of Plymouth, Whitney Askew of Canton Township, (back row) Raven Rickard of Westland, Chelsey Knapper of Clarkston, and Katie Ballman of Ann Arbor.

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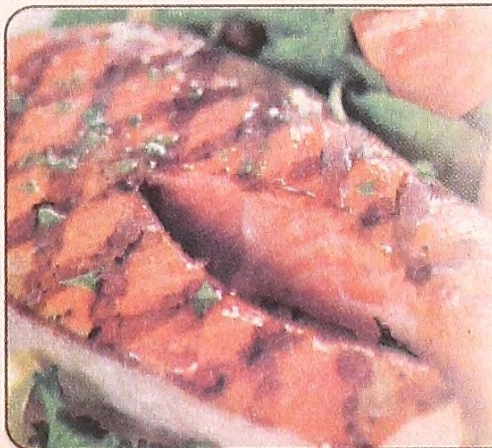
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Belleville Strawberry fest could move - again

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The 2008 Belleville National Strawberry Festival could be moving locations again.

Now that the repaving of Main Street will be put on hold due to a ballot initiative petition, officials want part of the strawberry festivities back on Main Street.

"We're hoping to be on Main Street, but it's up to the city council," said Joan Bodnar, executive director of the event.

Mayor Richard Smith said he assumes strawberry officials want to come back to Main Street, but they won't have any more details until their April 7 regular city council meeting.

"After that, hopefully we'll have an answer fairly quickly," said Bodnar. "I dropped off the letter requesting to go before the council to have the festival on Main Street again. If approved, it'd be business as usual."

Festival officials decided in February to move the event to Belleville High School for one year until the Main Street construction

was complete. The layout would include: the front section of the practice field used for crafters, the baseball field and running track for the food court area, another baseball field for crafters, the back section of the baseball field for a stage, the main stage in front of the bleachers and crafters around the track. However, those would all be moved to Main Street.

"I prefer Main Street and so do my vendors," said Bodnar.

"It gives it that small town U.S.A. feeling," she added. "It can work at the high school, but it's preferred on Main Street."

Speed Gant, president of the strawberry festival board, said right now the board members are in the middle.

"To do the strawberry festival, right now it'd be at the high school, but it could be back on Main Street," he said. "I would prefer it there."

The carnival, though, would remain at the high school where there would be an entry fee to get into the secured, enclosed area, officials said.

Police Chief Gene Taylor said if the festival committee isn't going to increase funding for security, the police department will have to go with the officers as is and hope it works out.

"They need to put everything all together. If they spread out the festival, they spread out my security team," he said. "My concern is not only about the people that come to the festival, but also the residents, the officers and their safety."

"The festival board members might not like what I have to say, but I'm concerned about moving the festival," he added. "I'm not sure what they want to do."

The 2008 Strawberry Festival also plans to host the 99.5 WYCD Detroit Country radio station; the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) and their driving race-track; Mark Rosenthal's Animal Magic of Belleville; extra shuttle service; the parade on Main Street and other entertainment throughout the strawberry festival weekend.

"If approved, it's going to be the usual festival event," said Bodnar.

Calendar of events

Library week scheduled

The Romulus Public Library has scheduled a series of events to mark National Library Week which takes place each year in April to honor and recognize the value of local libraries. This year, the Romulus library has organized two reading events.

The first is an appearance by Grandma Green Bean the Clown, featuring Denise Gutschwager. The appearance will take place at 5:50 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15.

The second is a puppet show featuring Mike Boynton, a puppeteer and executive assistant to Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano. Boynton's performance will take place at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16.

Library Week is April 13-19.

The Romulus Public Library is located off Wayne Road, next to Romulus City Hall.

For more information, call the library at (734) 942-7589.

"Nitch" schedules benefit

A group that helps knit and sew blankets for needy residents is asking the public to help them raise money.

Nitch for the Needy, a group of crafters associated with the Ball Road Tabernacle Church in Romulus, has scheduled an all-you-can eat spaghetti dinner to generate funding to help needy families.

Alan Richards, the promotions director of Nitch for the Needy, said the condition of the local economy has placed several people in the area in dire straits.

"This (is a) community service event that will help us to help people in Romulus," he said. "Our organization works all year round, finding help for people in crisis and in need."

In addition to the spaghetti dinner, there will also be a bake sale and a buffet.

The dinner will take place from 5-8 p.m. on Saturday, April 12, at the church.

Ball Road Tabernacle Church is located at just off of Ecorse Road and Ball Road, west of Middlebelt Road.

Dinner tickets are \$7.50 at the door: Children Under 6 years old can eat for \$3.50. Pre-ordered tickets are \$6.50.

For more information, call (734) 722-9638.

Softball leagues forming

Men's Sunday Softball "D" leagues are organizing for the 2008 summer season.

Up to eight teams are needed to comprise the league, and games will take place at Elmer Johnson Park, which is located at 9755 Ozga Road.

Players need not be a Romulus resident to join a team.

Games will take place at various times on different days of the week.

Registration fees are \$500 per team, or \$50 told hold an individual spot. Those fees include umpire fees, the 18-game schedule, and playoff and tournament awards given at the end of the season.

A manager's meeting will take place at 5 p.m. on May 12 at the recreation department.

The softball league is sponsored by Romulus Parks and Recreation.

For more information, call the department at (734) 941-8665.

Events are compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen. Information about events can be sent via e-mail to mtippen@journalgroup.com, or by fax at (734) 729-1840.



Friday walk

The annual Good Friday walk took off without a hitch on March 23. The walk takes place every year in an effort to provide unity for the city and residents, and to mark the Easter holiday.

Inkster man clings to life after wound to head

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

A 38-year-old Inkster man is clinging to life after he was struck in the head by a stray bullet as he sat in the passenger seat of a vehicle.

Police received a call at 10:30 p.m. March 26 from Annapolis Hospital reporting that a man had been shot. When Inkster police investigators arrived at the hospital, the driver and passenger who were

traveling with the victim provided an account of the incident, according to Det. Tony Delgreco of the Inkster Police Homicide Unit.

The three men were traveling in a Jeep Grand Cherokee sports utility vehicle along Carlisle Road, near Andover Street. At some point, a bullet penetrated the passenger's side window, where the victim was seated.

The bullet struck the right side of the victim's head, witnesses told police.

The driver of the vehicle transported the victim to Annapolis Hospital, where staff members called police.

Delgreco said the incident is under scrutiny by investigators, who are working to determine where the shot came from, and who may have fired it. Investigators have interviewed several witnesses.

"We're following leads in the case right now," Delgreco said.

As of Friday, the victim was listed in critical but stable condition at

the hospital, said Delgreco.

Investigators are interested in hearing from residents in the area who may have seen or heard something on the night of the shooting, he added.

To speak with detectives about the case, contact Delgreco of the Inkster Homicide Unit at (313) 563-9850 ext. 128. To leave an anonymous tip, call the Inkster Police Tip Line at (13) 277-4118, or call Crimestoppers at 1 (800) SPEAK-UP.

Plan

FROM PAGE 1

Merriman Elementary School. In all, about 800 residences would be demolished, and the city could stand to lose almost \$1 million in assessed revenue, according to the city.

The school district could lose as much as \$1.7 million in revenue.

The three-phase master plan outlines an expansion that would take until 2027 to complete.

The authority was expected to approve the plan at its regular March 22 meeting, but the members decided to delay the vote until mid-May.

County input crucial

Wayne County currently has two appointed board members on the Airport Authority Board, and

has no direct oversight of the body.

However, the county is expected to make some new appointments to the seven-member authority, according to Vanessa Denha-Garmo, Ficano's spokeswoman.

The reappointments could create an internal push to approve, or nix, the master plan.

Lambert said he thinks the needs of the city will be considered by the county because

Romulus is a part of the county and the residents are taxpayers.

"We're working with an expert that can show they can expand within their borders," he said. "If they can prove they need the runway for the good of the region, there's not much of a fight ahead for us."

The airport plan would only be set into motion is passenger traffic increases by 2.3 percent annually during the next several years.

Demolition

FROM PAGE 1

extension from the construction board of appeals or from the city council, then they just can't because (the buildings) are too far gone," McMahan added.

Residents have responded positively to the program, said Lambert.

"I've had people tell me how happy they are to see all those buildings gone," he said.

The general hope for the land once a building has been torn down is that others will come in and build new commercial buildings or homes, but that has not happened as

much as the city would like, said Lambert.

"We had several more deals lined up for some of the properties where other structures were torn down, but times are tough right now," he said. "They found out they couldn't get financing, or they had to back out. It's mostly because of the economy."

Blight abatement in neighbor-

hoods does remain the focus of the tear-downs, however.

"At least for now, it looks better," Lambert said.

McMahan said the six structures will be torn down unless one of the owners seeks - and is granted - an injunction ceasing all demolition activities from the 34th District Court.

Intersections

FROM PAGE 1

are sent to the Criminal Justice Information Center, which is a department of the Michigan State Police. Forms are completed by local agencies like the Romulus Police Department when there is an injury accident, or one that causes more than \$1,000 in property damage.

Bruff said the threshold was

raised to \$1,000 from \$400 last year.

The numbers did not surprise to Mayor Alan Lambert, a former police officer who often patrolled the highly-traveled roads referenced in the study.

"I remember taking a lot of accident reports in those areas," he said. "They're mostly county roads, and there's been some talk about making some of these intersections safer, but I don't think the county can afford to do that right now."

He said little more can be done except to aggressively enforce speed

limits along those roads.

"There's a lot of traffic on those roads, and that's not going to change," Lambert said. "There's also a lot of traffic in and out of the airport, so there's a lot of activity."

Even though the number of accidents is high at the intersections, few fatalities have occurred in the city. In the past two years, only three people have died as the result of a traffic accident in the city.

Of the top 50 crash-prone intersections in the region, most were in Oakland County. The seven counties

studies include Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Livingston, St. Clair and Washtenaw.

In Wayne County, the intersection where there were the most accidents was at Ford Road and Haggerty, in Canton Township where 317 accidents occurred.

For the region, the number one slot went to the intersection of 11 Mile Road and Van Dyke Road in Warren, where 426 accidents occurred.

Data for 2007 will be analyzed in May, Bruff said.

News briefs

FROM PAGE 1

available to talk to guests about how

to get involved in campus life. An up-to-date schedule of activities will be posted online.

Complimentary food and refreshments will be provided at this free event.

Those interested in attending are encouraged to RSVP online at www.hfcc.edu/openhouse.

For more information about the open house, call the Office of Enrollment Development at (313)

845-6397 or 1 (800) 585-4322, or send questions via e-mail to enroll@hfcc.edu.

— Compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen

OPINION

ROMULUS PUBLIC LIBRARY
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Temple plan invokes spirit of cooperation

Efforts to expand a Hindu temple in Canton Township may have suffered a set back last week.

The item, which had already been approved by the township planning commission, was removed from the board of trustees agenda as representatives from the temple wanted to explore it a little more. The planning commission is a recommending body, but the ultimate decision rests in the hands of the board of trustees.

Part of the reason for the removal is that the homeowner's associations from the neighboring subdivisions—which have been vocally against the project from the start—have hired an attorney to help advocate for changes to the plan.

While it's clear that anyone has the right to do this, we're not certain of what they hope to gain from this process.

The developer, through their representative Attorney Bryan Amann, has already made plenty of expensive adjustments to their original proposal. They have addressed traffic concerns. They have factored in additional landscaping, changed the grade of the berm, agreed to put in a screening wall. They have worked with acoustic engineers to reduce

We're confident that they wouldn't propose or approve a project that they collectively didn't feel was the best as could be under the circumstances.

the potential for any sound leaking from the new facility. They've reduced the size of the dome and lowered the overall height of the building, too. They have, in our opinion, met every one of the residents' requests—save one. They refused to move the building closer to Cherry Hill Road.

That's the main sticking point for the residents, too. The way the new building is proposed now, it will be located further south on the long, narrow plot of land near Canton Center Road—which puts it directly in the middle of two subdivisions. It will be adjacent to two or three homes and obviously glaringly visible, no matter how tall the trees get.

There are several reasons temple officials have refused this request, the most notable being that it's not practical. They want the building in the center of the site, so the parking lots on either side aren't too large and members don't have to walk too far to get inside. It would also create issues during construction.

Besides, they don't have to.

As proposed, the project meets all township ordinances. Amann, who has been around a long time and is a former commissioner himself, knows the ins and outs of township regulations. The same can be said for the township planning staff—and the commission members, as well. We're confident that they wouldn't propose or approve a project that they collectively didn't feel was the best as could be under the circumstances.

And the circumstances are what should be considered here. No, this is probably not the ideal site for such a project, but similar buildings have been constructed on similar sites elsewhere. What's important is that the spirit of cooperation is still intact, and we think that's what has taken place here.

Rooftop plan is too close for comfort

If things go according to plan, the City of Plymouth will soon have its first rooftop bar.

Well, we hate to be a stick in the mud or anything like that, but we hope things don't go according to plan.

This is one development we think the city isn't ready for. There are too many problems with the proposal.

For those that don't know, the concept came from the new owners of the Penn Grill and Bar, which is on Penniman Avenue in the heart of the downtown. The eatery already has approval for sidewalk seating, and owners want to create a new space where patrons can hang out during the summer time and catch a view of nearby Kellogg Park.

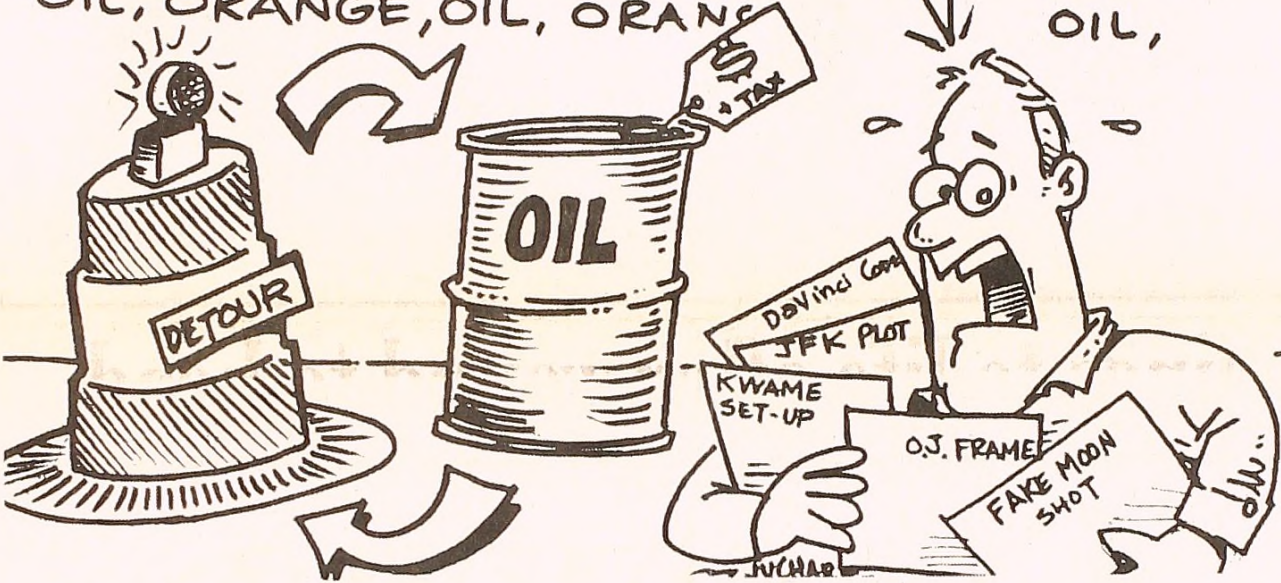
It's a concept unique to downtown Plymouth. It's been approved by the city planning commission, but not yet been in front of the city council, which will make the final decision on the issue.

We don't think this is the right time for such a concept, though. The commission implemented a moratorium not too long ago on the issuance of new liquor licenses because they were concerned about the image of the downtown area and the strain that additional bars would put on the relatively small police department. We don't think providing additional rooftop seats would help either one of those issues.

There are also residents to consider. There are apartments directly across the street from the tavern, and high-priced upper level condominiums for sale nearby, too.

There are enough places to go in Plymouth right now, enough different venues and plenty of other ways to enjoy the ambience of the downtown. We don't think this is a necessary addition.

ITS A CONSPIRACY, MAN!!
THEY PUT OUT THESE ORANGE BARRELS
TO CAUSE DELAYS AND DETOURS, TO MAKE YOU
BUY MORE OF THE OIL BARRELS TO PAY
MORE ROAD TAX, SO THEY CAN FUND MORE PROJECTS,
REQUIRING MORE ORANGE BARRELS, CAUSING
MORE OIL BARRELS, CAUSING ORANGE BARRELS
OIL, ORANGE, OIL, ORANGE



More than a painting- Part 2

The Wayne history mural is evolving into quite a project for the city.

I've been behind this project since its inception and have marveled at the way Massachusetts-based muralists Joshua Winer and David Fichter have taken on the project.

Last week was no different.

In town for a few days to plot out the next phase of the project, they met with the Wayne 20/20 Committee to talk about their plans so far. The meeting was a popular one by 20/20 standards—they had a quorum and there were several interested people in the audience, from a couple of city councilman, to the city attorney and members of the historic commission.

There still weren't many members of the general public, though, and that's a shame. Sitting there and listening to Winer and Fichter talk about the next four panels—there are still two blank ones on either side of the mural on the State Wayne—and what they've picked up about the town and its history would ease anyone's concerns about the project.

As I've said before, this more than just a painting on the side of a public building.

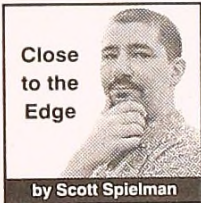
The muralists showed again why they're the perfect choice for the project, too. They might have faced a challenge in integrating the new phase in with the old, but you never would've known it. They had general plans for each panel, a theme that ranged from rural

Wayne to the education system to its move from a village to a city, that perfectly complements what is already there. They've learned, in a few short visits, more about the city that most residents know—certainly more than I know.

This project has not been easy to get going. Even now there are people out there who question the expense and the timing—and how it will eventually help the city. But this is something the city administration got right, but in agreeing to it and the way it was carried out. The request for proposals brought in the right people for the job and they've taken it a level that even I didn't expect.

Winer and Fichter will be back at the end of May or beginning of June to complete the work. They'll have general concepts with them, but if their progress last year was any indicator, they'll be able to add details that will enhance the project virtually up until the final day. I look forward to spotting those last minute additions and trying to figure out why they made them. That's part of the fun, part of the attraction and part of the reason the proposed 'pocket park' in the parking lot is such a good idea, too.

I hope, too, that this is just the start of something big. I'd like to see what else these two could come up with, should the council have the wisdom to continue this public art project.



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

Students deserve a choice of art teacher

It doesn't look like the disagreement between the arts community and the private sector in Northville will be settled any time soon.

City Manager Pat Sullivan said that as many as nine arts and ceramics classes offered at the Northville Art House will be cancelled because they conflict with classes offered by galleries owned and operated by downtown merchants.

The discussion is still going on, but our first reaction is—or perhaps we should say 'continues to be': so what?

We understand the need to have a thriving business sector and the problems that can arise when it looks like a municipality is competing with the marketplace, but we think this sets a dangerous precedent.

The Northville Arts Commission (NAC), which oversees the operation of the art house, is a volunteer group. They've been around for decades and have always scratched for funding and notoriety as they pursued their one true goal: the promotion of arts within the community.

They're not out to compete with anyone. In fact, they want to bring about more artistic programs in the community because it will be good for the entire community.

Part of the problem here is the subjective nature of art—and art instructors. It's not like duplicating

You could probably make the case that it will hurt the local economy, rather than support it.

a fitness class at the recreation center or selling the same hot dog for a dollar less. Some people prefer different approaches to art instruction and limiting those classes can hamstring efforts to promote a diverse artistic community.

You could probably make the case that it will hurt the local economy, rather than support it. Fewer classes at fewer locations mean that fewer people will come to town—at a time when many merchants are concerned about foot traffic as it is.

As we've said, the discussion is still going on. We hope that calmer heads can prevail and a better compromise can be reached. There has been plenty of progress during the last several years to develop the city as a sort of artistic mecca, a unique niche within the overall framework of western Wayne County. Let's build on that, not limit it.

Letters

Lack of progress questioned

To the editor:
I am perplexed. I am confused. I am bewildered. I am puzzled.

REIS purchased the state hospital land over six months ago with the promise of thousands of jobs and a world class development project. They paid for it, they own it.

Why then, are those condemned buildings still standing?? Why aren't those "jobs" at work right now cleaning up the toxic waste and hazardous material?? It will probably take a year to clean up those 414 acres. Wouldn't that year-long clean up process bring hundreds of jobs to Michigan?

Whether the land is annexed to

Livonia or stays in Northville, the site has to be free of contaminants before their project begins. What are they waiting for? We need those jobs in Michigan and we need them now!

As Henry Ford once said, "We are all manufacturers...making good, making trouble, or making excuses." Which one is REIS?

Laurie D Marrs,
Northville

Send us your letters

The Journal Newspapers welcomes all letters to the editor. Letters should be addressed to: The Editor, The Journal Newspapers, 35540 Michigan Ave., Wayne, Michigan 48184. All letters will be considered for publication and may be edited for content, space and length.

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The Journal Newspapers are published Thursdays
at 35540 Michigan Ave., Wayne, Michigan, 48184.
Central office hours are 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Phone 734-467-1900

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College registration is now under way

The Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) western campus will start summer 2008 registration on April 7.

For Summer I, early registration will take place from April 7-25 for online, campus and mail-in options. Final registration will be April 28 through May 19 and, classes will start on May 19 and end on Aug. 11.

For Summer II, early registration will take place from April 7 through June 2 for online at 9 a.m., on campus or mail-in. Final registration will take place from June 2-12 and, classes will start June 12 with the last day of classes on July 30.

Early registration hours will take place for Summer I classes,

which take place from April 7-25, and, for Summer II classes, which take place from April 7 through June 12, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday from April 7-25.

Final registration hours for Summer I, which takes place from April 28-May 19 and Summer II, which takes place from June 3-12, will take place at 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Academic advising is available year-round for students and, students are encouraged to see an advisor prior to class registration. For online registration assistance call 866-374-6768.



Ofc. Kevin Berger of the Wayne Police Department was one of 33 officers honored by MADD recently at the annual Lifesaver's Luncheon.

Life saver Drunk drivers are obvious to area officer

Scott Spielman
Editor

After more than six years of working midnights for the Wayne Police Department, Ofc. Kevin Berger said he can spot a drunken driver a mile away.

"I've developed a pretty good instinct," said Berger, "but it's not all that hard. They usually do things that call attention to themselves."

Berger was one of 33 law enforcement officers from throughout Wayne County to be honored by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) at the annual Lifesavers Luncheon last month.

Wayne Police Chief John Williams said he respects that Berger has made during his time on the force.

"He is an advocate for anyone who has every had a friend or a loved one—or anyone—affected by a drunk driver," Williams said. "He's taken it upon himself to go after the drunk drivers in the community. He is without a doubt one of the best."

Berger has received the award each year he's worked in the city. He said part of that is because of the shifts he is assigned, and the

area.

"I'm dealing with intoxicated people more often than not," he said.

He's seen his share of unusual circumstances, too. Last week, for example, he came across a woman so intoxicated at a Wayne bar that she had driven her car onto a concrete parking slab, gotten it stuck there, and then passed out with the engine running.

That's nothing compared to the woman he arrested once for driving drunk in a golf cart or the ones that have consumed so much that they get sick in their vehicles.

"Those are the nasty ones," he said.

He once had three drunken driving arrests during one shift, too. He responded to a call when he first took the road shortly after midnight, found another on a patrol and then a group of intoxicated men when he stopped for breakfast at a coney island on Wayne Road.

It was about 6:30 a.m. at the time and Berger walked in—in full uniform—and saw three obviously intoxicated men about to leave. They walked past him, apparently oblivious.

"I said to the waitress: 'They're not going to do it, are they?'"

Berger said.

Berger said that, sure enough, the men got into their vehicle. Berger returned to his squad car and waited around the corner and pulled them over as they passed.

"Sometimes, you just have to wonder what's going through their minds," he said.

MADD is a 501(c)(3) non-profit grass roots organization with more than 400 chapters nationwide. But MADD is not on a crusade against alcohol consumption, according to Nechole McClendon of MADD Wayne County.

"MADD's mission is to stop drunk driving, support the victims of this violent crime and prevent underage drinking," she said.

Berger said he appreciated the honor. He said people should think twice before they get behind the wheel after they've been drinking, too. It only takes an instant for something to happen that can change one's life forever.

"It's just not worth it," he said.

Williams said Berger has already made a positive impact in the community, too.

"If he has saved one person with what he's done, he's had a successful career," Williams said. "And I have no doubt that he's already done that."

Plymouth groups offer public relations lessons

As businesses and organizations throughout the state look for a way to stay competitive in a slow economy, the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce will take a group of local business leaders to public relations school.

Natalie Burg, a former journalist, will lead training on how to create effective press releases and prepare events as part of the Your Business in the News training at the chamber of commerce office on April 10. The training is designed to empower the merchant on how to attract media attention.

"The idea is to help show the businesses strategies—at a low cost—that will help draw business to them and get results," said DDA Assistant Operations Director John Buzuvis.

Buzuvis said that businesses that are successful in getting their story told in print or on the airwaves are successful in gaining new customers and keeping competitive.

"Those businesses have seen the benefits," he added.

In addition to showing businesses how to write and submit a press release, the training will include identifying which stories are "newsworthy" and worth media attention as well as recognizing your target audience.

The workshop starts at 8:30 a.m. and is expected to last an hour. Space is limited for the training and attendees must pre-register by calling the DDA at (734) 455-1453. There is a \$5 to pay for materials and the cost of the training. The Plymouth Chamber of Commerce office is located on 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth.

CLASSIFIED

- 01. Obituaries
- 02. In Memoriam
- 03. Cards of Thanks
- 04. Monuments & Cemetery Plots
- 05. Personals/Announcements
- 06. Legal Notices
- 07. Attorneys
- 08. Entertainment
- 09. Lost & Found
- 10. Coming Events
- 30. Help Wanted

- 31. Help Wanted Sales
- 32. Help Wanted Drivers
- 33. Child Care
- 34. Specialized Services
- 35. Situations Wanted
- 40. Business Opportunity
- 42. Health and Fitness
- 43. Money to Loan
- 44. Music/Art Lessons
- 45. Adult Care
- 46. Private Schools/Instruction
- 47. Riding/Horses/Stables

- 50. Pets & Supplies
- 54. Rummage Sales
- 55. Estate Sales
- 56. Flea Markets
- 57. Antiques
- 58. Garage and Yard Sales
- 59. Auctions
- 60. Misc. Sales
- 61. Misc. Items
- 62. Building Supplies
- 63. Business and Office Equipment

- 64. Lawn & Garden Supplies
- 65. Tree Service
- 66. Landscape / Nurseries
- 67. Garden Plant / Supplies
- 68. Garden / Produce
- 70. Masonry / Brickwork
- 72. Cleaning Services
- 73. Musical Merchandise
- 74. Sporting Goods
- 75. Boats / Accessories
- 76. Remodeling & Renovations
- 77. Recreation Vehicles

- 78. Hunting / Fishing
- 82. Wanted to Buy
- 87. Room for Rent
- 88. Duplexes for Rent
- 89. Apartments for Rent
- 90. Condos/Townhouses for Rent
- 92. Business Places for Rent
- 93. Banquet Halls
- 94. Farm Land for Rent
- 95. Real Estate
- 96. Houses for Rent
- 97. Cottages for Rent

- 98. Mobile Homes for Rent
- 99. Flats for Rent
- 100. Will Share
- 101. Wanted to Rent
- 102. Storage
- 103. Business Property for Sale
- 104. Farms & Acreage for Sale
- 105. Mobile Homes for Sale
- 106. Houses for Sale
- 107. Condos/Townhouses for Sale
- 108. Lake and Resort
- 109. Income Property

- 110. Lots for Sale
- 111. Out of State Property
- 112. Commercial Lease
- 113. Real Estate Wanted
- 114. Auto Accessories
- 115. Autos for Sale
- 116. Antique & Classic Cars
- 117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
- 118. Freebies
- 119. Auto Repairs
- 120. Motorcycles
- 121. Autos Wanted

1. Obituaries

KOST, Linda, age 58. She was born March 30, 1949. Linda was retired from her position with the Wayne County Road Commission, and had also worked as a courier for Bank One for a few years. She was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church and served as a Catechist. She was a fan of Alicia Keys, and enjoyed attending her concerts, having been fortunate enough to have met her backstage on several occasions. A memorial service will be held at Holy Family Catholic Church located at 27800 Annapolis Rd., Inkster, MI on Saturday, April 5 at 11:00 AM. For further information please call (313) 563-8242.



BROADNAX, Gloria Jean, age 62, died March 17, 2008. She was born September 29, 1945. "Mother" enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, traveling, doing her arts and crafts as well as listening to music. She touched many lives and will stay in the hearts and minds of all. Gloria leaves behind three children, James (Yvette), Charrie (Ronald) and Donald (Nefera); two brothers, Michael (Lynn) and Jerry

(Valerie); two sisters, Sonya (Michael) and Anita (Benny); one brother-in-law, Charles; five grandchildren, Neja, Terrell, Jahmaya, David and Ellyse; one great grandson, Lovell, and a host of nephews, nieces, other relative and friends. Gloria was preceded in death by her parents, James J. and Doretha D., one sister, Rozena and one brother-in-law, Kenneth. Services were held at Romulus Community Baptist Church, Romulus, MI with Pastor H. McBurrows, Jr. officiating. Cremation rites were accorded. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.



WARD, Kathleen, age 81, died March 15, 2008. She was born March 10, 1927. Kathleen leaves to cherish her loving memories her two children, Michael and Marsha (Darrell); five grandchildren, Darrell, Dion, Donavon, Danielle and Derek; eight great grandchildren, Darrell Jr., Darius, Bronx, Shaun, DeAndre, Demarco, Erika and Adereka; four sisters-in-law, Vivian, Sadie, Irene and Lenore; brother-in-law, Calvin, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and a numerous court of friends, including Mrs. Pearl Childs who was with her during her

hospital stay. Services were held at Beulah Missionary Baptist Church, Westland, MI with Rev. Kenneth C. Pierce officiating. Interment was at Detroit Memorial Park West, Redford, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home.



WILLIAMS, Carlos Renad, age 45, died March 16, 2008. He was born June 4, 1962. Carlos leaves to celebrate his memory, his mother, Rose Marie Hargrove (David); his children, Carlos 1 and Carlos 2; his sisters, Patricia Bullard (Eric), Debra Fox (Andre), Felicia Williams, Lolita Fortune, all of Detroit, MI, Juanita Webster of Atlanta, GA, Betty Wade of Cleveland, OH, Enesta Lewis (John), Pinkie and Latoya Reed of Birmingham, AL.; six uncles, 13 aunts and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Carlos was preceded in death by a special aunt, Lolita Poole. Services were held at Penn Funeral Home with Bishop Gary Harper officiating. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

30. Help Wanted

AIRCRAFT REPAIR - Global company will provide you paid training along with an extensive benefits package. H.S. diploma grads, age 17-34. 1-800-922-1703, M-F 8-4

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SUMTER, SC

SCHOOL DISTRICT Two Teacher Recruitment Fair, Saturday, April 19, 2008, 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Sumter School District Two Administrative Office, 1345 Wilson Hall Rd., Sumter, SC 29150. Please call (803) 469-6900, ext. 209, no later than April 15 for an interview time. Positions available in the elementary, middle and high schools. PACE certified teachers welcome.

31. Sales Help Wanted

ACCOUNT REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED

The Journal Newspapers has immediate openings for sales representatives to serve our circulation area. Candidates must have reliable transportation and a willing attitude. Base plus commission. Newspaper or media sales experience preferred, but will train the right candidate. Please send resume detailing experience and availability to:

Susan Willett
Journal Newspaper Group
P.O. Box 339
Wayne, MI 48184

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40. Business Opportunity

Looking for more business referrals? The Masters of Opportunity chapter of BNI meets every Friday from 7am to 8:30am at the Wayne Tree Manor. Visitors are Welcome. Call Trish at: 734-890-1250

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42. Health and Fitness

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50. Pets & Supplies

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4 yr. old Male
Black & tan, neutered
All shots current
Non-aggressive
Microchip
Good with kids
Call 734-981-1054

59. Auctions

Notice is hereby given that on 4/24/08 at 9:30 am the following will be sold by competitive bidding at:

Store-It Self Storage
29180 Van Born
Westland, MI 48186

Unit #143-Deborah Adams: Household items, misc. goods; Unit 152-Dorinda K Wall: Household items, misc. goods; Unit #162-Jon P. Gamburd: Misc. goods; Unit #165-Ann Peterson: Household items, misc. goods; Unit #230-Scott Sochocki: Household items, misc. goods; Unit #170-Ms. Michelle Kelly: Household items, misc. goods; Unit #122-Carson Outlaw: Recreational items, household items, misc. goods; Unit #121-Mthembemi Langa: Household items, misc. goods; Unit #58-Margaret A. Green: Household items, misc. goods; Unit #12-Maureen Dixon: Household items, misc. goods

Notice is hereby given that on 4/23/08 at 2:00 pm the following will be sold by competitive bidding at:

National Storage Center
39205 Ford Rd.
Westland, MI 48185

Unit #186-Frederick L. Mallard: Household items, misc. goods; Unit #219-Lanthyia Garland: Household items, misc. goods; Unit #322-Michael Johnson: Recreational items, misc. goods; Unit #465-Cynthia K. Starbuck: Household items, misc. goods; Unit #511-Caron Finch: Household items, recreational items, misc. goods

Notice is hereby given that on 4/23/08 at 1:00 p.m. the following will be sold by competitive bidding at:

Stor-N-Lock Self Storage
7840 N. Wayne Rd.
Westland, MI 48185

Unit #N1C-Johnie Ingram: Household items, misc. goods; Unit #P14-James R. Wasczenski: Recreational

items, misc. goods; Unit #F22-Matthew D. Balabon: Household items, recreational items, misc. goods; Unit #C5-Gerri Kuck: Recreational items, misc. goods; Unit #J25-Kevin McGriff: Household items, recreational items, misc. goods; Unit #L23-Leeann Gale: Household items, misc. goods.

Notice is hereby given that on 4/23/08 at 3:00pm the following will be sold by competitive bidding at:

The Storroom Self Storage
40600 Michigan Ave
Canton, MI

Space #327-Christina Haley: Household goods, misc. goods; Space #415-Donna Bonds: Household goods; Space #507-Crystal Webb: Household goods, misc. goods; Space #629-Nancy Ann Thornton: Household goods, misc. goods; Space #1008B-Wanna Johnson: Misc. goods

Notice of Public Sale.
On April 22, 2008 at 1:00 PM

U-Store-It 401
28266 Ecorse Rd.
Romulus, MI 48174

will sell the following units to the highest bidder by Cash. U-Store-It reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. All items in storage units contain household items unless otherwise mentioned:
Unit C1-Dawn Rojas, Unit C25-Ed Musico, Unit D25-John Proctor, Unit D42-James P. Bensmiller, Unit D45-James P. Bensmiller.

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Westland, MI 48186

00 Kia Sportage
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KNDJB7237Y5655818

88 Chev. Celebrity
4 Dr Burgundy
1G1AW51W1J6270316

78 Ford F150
PU Blue
F15BLCC3205

96 Ford Taurus
4 Dr Blue
1FALP52U7TG260676

92 Chrysler LeBaron
Conv. Red
1C3XU4536NF251031

91 Plymouth Sundance
2 Dr Purple
1P3XP44K5MNM635575

91 Ford Taurus
4 Dr Burgundy
1FACP52U8MG210144

92 Geo Storm
2 Dr Yellow
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61. Misc. Items

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SPORTS

New coach readies John Glenn team

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Although the snow was heavy on the ground outside his office last Friday, John Glenn Coach Tom Wakefield was excited about kicking off the new baseball season this week.

The first-year Glenn head coach has good reason to be, too.

The Rockets graduated seven seniors off of last year's roster but have a good mix of returning players and promising newcomers. That, mixed with a new team philosophy, should bring good things for Glenn this season.

Wakefield, may be new at Glenn, has plenty of experience. He was an assistant at Spring Arbor and Madonna University and coached at Wayne for six years before taking a three-year hiatus. He landed at John Glenn last year where he took up teaching business and computers.

He was welcomed with open arms by assistant baseball coach and then head football coach Todd Deluca. Deluca persuaded Wakefield to take on assistant duties with him under then head baseball coach Matt Howton.

Howton retired after last season and when his wife had twins, leaving his job up for grabs.

Wakefield said he's ready to get back into the game.

"With a lot of things in life you have to recharge your batteries," he said of his sabbatical. "Taking time off allowed me to do that and it's also allowed me to spend time with my family and for me to get my priorities straight. It was good for me to be able to do that because now that I'm back I think I'm a better coach than I was before."

He admitted that after being a head coach for so long, coming back as an assistant was a difficult concept to grasp. It actually worked in his favor, offering a smooth transition when he took over.

"I think a lot of things that we did together last year helped set the tone for this year," Wakefield said. "The starters that are coming back were able to implement a lot of the changes that we made last year, making for an easier transition because they're not going into it blind. It's made them better ballplayers because they've made people around them better."

Wakefield has a solid group of six returning players—five of them seniors.

The most experience is in the bullpen, where three senior pitchers will share time. Chris Kangas, Robert Fraser and Jon Gillis all have exceptional time on the mound for the Rockets. When not pitching Kangas will play first base; Fraser will be at shortstop; and Gillis in the outfield.

"When ever you have juniors that have experience in varsity games and not only throwing a few innings, but also starting as many games as they had, it builds confidence," Wakefield said. "They know what to expect coming in and they also know what their expectations are, which are to not just pitch in games now but to win games."

Senior Kevin Lafave is expected to call the game from behind the plate and can take on other infield duties when needed, according to Wakefield.

Junior Andrew Deluca could emerge as a fourth pitcher. Until called up he will head the outfield

See **Baseball**, page 9

Lady Chiefs reload for 08 softball campaign

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Last year at this time the Canton Lady Chiefs varsity softball team had more experience then they knew what to do with.

This year they are in the exact opposite position.

The Lady Chiefs listed nine seniors, two juniors, three sophomores and one freshman on the roster last year. As of last week, Coach Jim Arnold had enlisted just three seniors, six juniors, two sophomores and four freshmen to the varsity squad.

The four freshmen are the most in Arnold's 19-year of coaching career.

"Our numbers were down this year," Arnold said. "We only had 25 players for two teams. I don't know why it is, but we had to scramble to get some ball players for JV. We only have about three players on the JV team that have played ball before."

On the positive side, Canton has five very solid players returning.

Senior pitcher Hilary Payne, who's committed to play at Loyola in Chicago next year, is back on the mound for Canton. She posted a 14-6-2 record last year with a 1.13 ERA. She also owns a .403 batting average.

Nicole Rago is the only senior in the outfield. She has a good arm and is aggressive getting to the ball. She hit .333 last year.

Newcomer Hannah Dillon rounds out the senior class.

Junior Shelby Anthony, another aggressive strong-armed player, will anchor the infield at shortstop. Fellow junior Miranda Rysdorp is also back for another season in the outfield.

Sophomore pitcher Amy Dunleavy rounds out the returning class. Dunleavy racked up a 6-2 record with a 1.43 ERA as a freshman last year and batted .274.

Other juniors include Christy

VanEsley, Jordan Puskar, Molly Watson and Sam Podorsek and the other sophomore is Lauren Roberts.

That leaves the freshmen. According to Arnold, all four will take on key positions. Heidi Lucke, Kaitlyn Mattson and Sam Partain round out the infield and Lauren Leskovitz has outfield duties.

"We're pretty young, and I'd like to say inexperienced, but they've got some experience playing ball just not at the varsity level," Arnold said. "The four freshmen have the ability to play at this level but how they react I won't know until we can get outside and scrimmage. So, we're going to be a little nervous at first."

In a sport where success relies heavily on pitching, Arnold has the firepower of Payne and Dunleavy to rely on.

"We have some outstanding pitching," Arnold said. "I think, with the two pitchers that we have, they're definitely going to keep us in the game. The question is whether or not we can get a couple key hits and score a couple of runs."

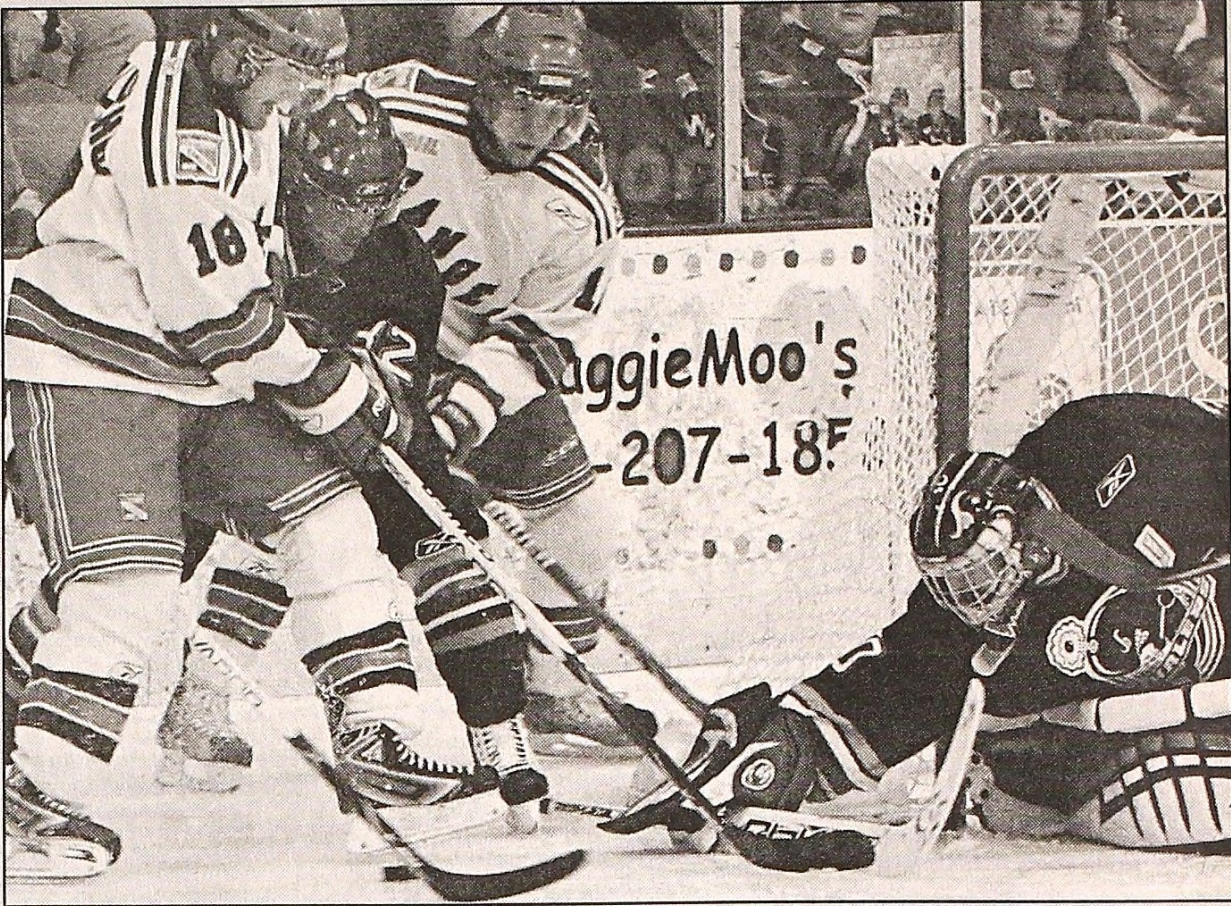
Arnold and crew hope to improve their impressive 2007 record of 26-9-2, win districts again and hopefully get past the first round of regional play.

"We definitely want to keep our district title," Dunleavy said. "So far its' looking really good. To do that, we definitely have to come together as a team. We have a lot of new players but we're connecting more and more every day. We have a lot of talent."

A lot of that depends on the offense. The team as a whole had a .306 batting average but relied heavily on Lauren Delapaz—now at Eastern Michigan University—who hit .481 her senior year.

The team is convinced that the

See **Softball**, page 10



Ranger goalie Josh Unice makes a stop against Plymouth's Kaine Geldart on Wednesday night at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township. He made 31 other saves to lead Kitchener to a 7-4 victory in Game 4 of the OHL Western Conference quarterfinals to sweep the Whalers and end their season.

Rangers oust Whalers in 1st round

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The defending Ontario Hockey League champs' road to a repeat quickly collapsed when the visiting Kitchener Rangers finished the Whalers off, 7-4, in Game 4 of the Western Conference quarterfinals on Wednesday night, ending the Whalers' season.

The Rangers set the pace early, scoring twice in the first three minutes of play.

Mikkel Boedker was first on the board, scoring his second playoff goal just 1:57 into the first period. Scott Timmins added the

Rangers' second goal about a minute later. Jordan O'Neill cut the deficit to 2-1 at the 12:55 mark of the frame.

Matt Halischuk made it a 3-1 game when he put his penalty shot by Whaler goalie Jeremy Smith at 8:19.

Patrick Lee kept Plymouth in it when he deflected Chris Terry's shot past Kitchener netminder Josh Unice at 13:17 while on a power play. Kitchener finished the first 40 minutes of play ahead, 4-2, when Nick Spaling knocked one in with 4:20 to play in the second session.

Plymouth didn't give in and

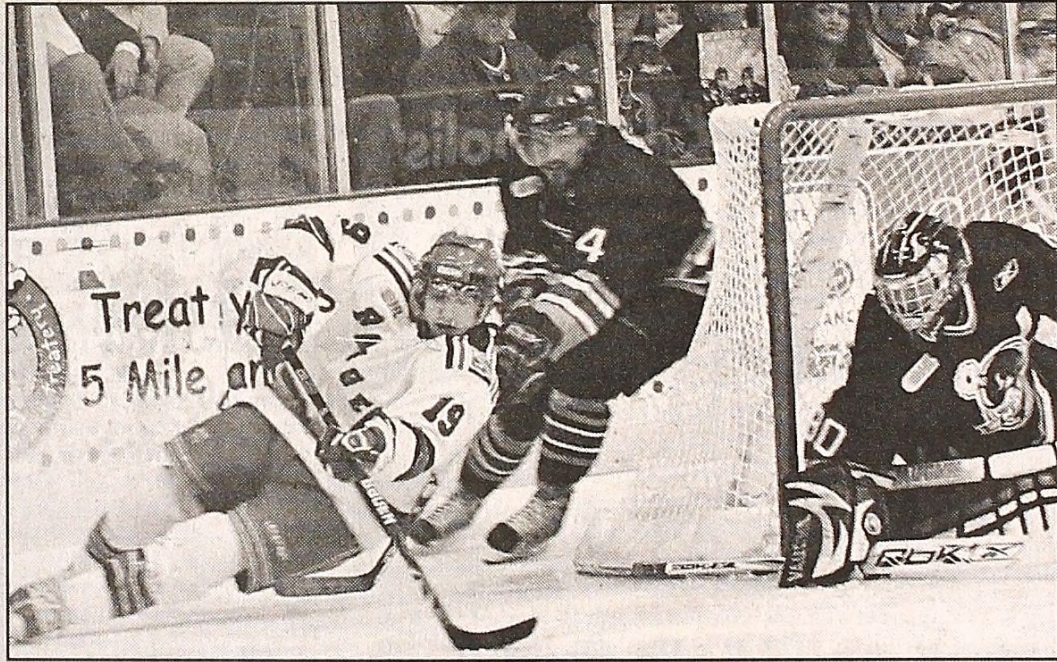
continued to nip at the Rangers' heels.

Tyler J. Brown made it a one-point game again, scoring just 12 seconds into the third period. That was negated when Ranger Ben Shutron answered with a tally 46 seconds later. Plymouth again cut the lead to one point when Andrew Fournier put a power-play goal past Unice at 8:45.

But that was all the Whalers could do to stay in it.

Rangers put the game away with goals by Mike Duco (15:09) and Scott Tregunna (15:47).

Kitchener blasted Smith with 55 shots while Plymouth took 36.



Kitchener's Nazem Kadri tries to take a shot on Plymouth's net while sliding around the corner.

30 and holding Belleville's Curtis enters 3rd coaching decade

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

During her first 29 years as a coach, there were a lot of good years and few bad ones but Belleville's Peggy Curtis has enjoyed them all.

Entering her 30th year she hopes this one tops them all.

"It doesn't seem like 30 years," she said. "Well, some days it does. I didn't know how long I would coach for but I'll keep going as long as I'm having fun."

The most memorable years to her were 1983 and 1984—when Belleville won back-to-back state championships. Before that and since then she's had a lot of teams that were close but couldn't quite get there.

She hopes her 2008 team can reclaim the crown.

The Lady Tigers, although racked with injuries, went 23-7 last year and lost to Ann Arbor Huron in the regional championship. Curtis has a majority of players back from the district championship team.

Hilary Ivan, Brandi Craig, Lindsey Williams and All-State Jasmine Blue Haralson were the only casualties to graduation.

That leaves five seniors, six juniors and three freshmen that are ready to kick it into second gear this season. Everything about this team screams championship—from pitching to hitting to defense.

One of the most notable returns

It doesn't seem like 30 years. Well, some days it does. I didn't know how long I would coach for but I'll keep going as long as I'm having fun.

is junior all-state hurler Samantha Cole.

She set the school record for the most strikeouts in a season with 226 and her .720 ERA tied Judy Wisniewski's 1983 record. Cole pitched 175 innings and struck out 38 percent of the batters she faced—only three percent got hits.

"She's a great athlete and a great kid," Curtis said. "She's the type of player that is all about the team. She'll do whatever it takes

for the team. She's always gives us a chance to win when she pitching."

Luckily, Cole doesn't have to do it all by herself. She has a solid supporting cast around her and senior catcher Danielle Stabnau provides stability and leadership behind the plate.

The Stabnau-Cole duo works so well together that Curtis allows them to call their own game.

"To be a great pitcher you need a great catcher," Curtis said. "They call their own game and I don't have to worry."

A host of returning players shore up the infield. Junior Angel Matthews is at first, senior Jessica Kovach is set on second and junior Cassy Prozonek will anchor third. Senior Kendall Acho was moved to centerfield this year.

Curtis was hush-hush on who will fill the other two spots in the outfield and which freshman pitcher will backup Cole. She said until those players prove themselves she'll keep it quiet.

On offense, Curtis will miss Haralson's big bat but said Matthews and Prozonek are capable of stepping up. Cole, as good as

See **Belleville**, page 9

SPORTS



Peggy Curtis, right, enters her 30th year of coaching this season.

Belleville

FROM PAGE 8

she is from the circle, is almost as good at the plate. She hit .313 with two home runs and was second on the team with 16 RBI. “I’m really excited about this year’s team,” Curtis said. “Last year we had

major injuries and still managed to keep it together so we’re expecting a good season this year.” Curtis hasn’t set a timetable on retirement, yet—and that’s a good thing for Belleville and the softball program. “I still enjoy it,” she said. “I figure I’ll know when it’s time.” If she waits until she stops winning it could be a long time.

Baseball

FROM PAGE 8

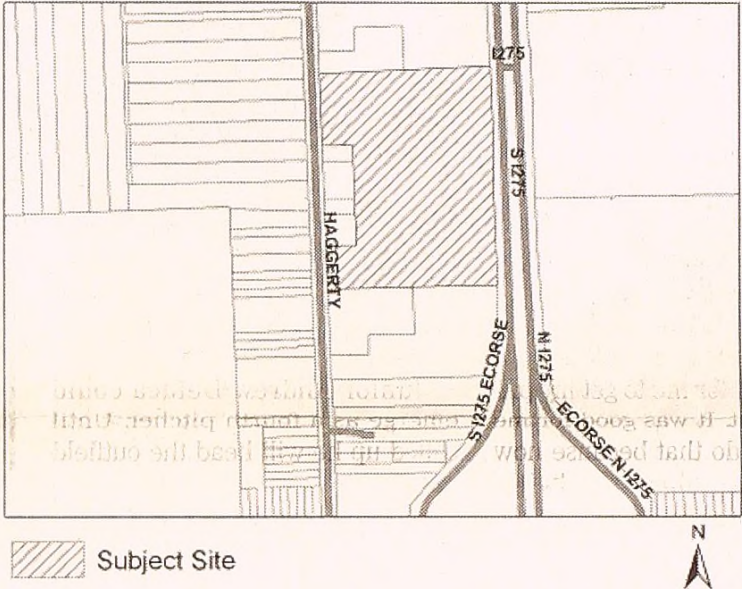
at center. Don Brady is the team’s other returning senior and will play the outfield. New to the roster this year are four seniors, five juniors and one sophomore. Seniors Jon Lada and Kyle Acuna are infielders and senior Jase Paciocco is an outfielder. Senior Mike Johnson is a pitcher. Juniors Steve Hickson, Jacob Sperry, Nathan Bovia and Anthony Vettraino are all infield prospects. Sperry could add more depth on the mound, too. Junior Jerome Scales is an outfielder. Sophomore Steve Wakeford is an infield prospect. “Last year we had a lot of seniors—probably enough to cover the field,” Fraser said. “We had more experience but our younger guys this year have a lot of talent. We’ll see what they’re made of. We have really good seniors that will really push them and hopefully take them far.” Another key component the Rockets have this year is the coaching staff. Wakefield has made an impact on the players already. “He brings a lot of knowledge of the game with him,” Kangas said. “He’s a smart guy that has been around the game for a long

time and he helps out in all areas.” “He’s been around for a long time—coaching and playing,” Fraser added. “He knows his stuff and we listen. Todd Deluca remains an assistant with the team, bringing experience and insight, and newcomer Dan Danic brings youth and energy to the staff. “Todd has been nothing but an asset to me since the time that I’ve come here,” Wakefield said. “He’s been very supportive—he’s just a standup guy and is a man of integrity. “Dan is phenomenal with the kids,” he added. “His personality, his love for the game and personal work ethic rubs off on the kids. He adds a whole new aspect to the team.” With weeks of bad weather the team is just itching to get outside and play and to set in motion a season the players hope will include a district championship—something that had eluded the team the last few years. “I’m ready to play, go out side and get to work,” Kangas said. “We want to win a district title. We came up short last year so we’re hungry for it this year. In order to do that we have to come together and people ha Weather permitting, Glenn hosts Farmington in a doubleheader on Saturday with the first game scheduled for 11 p.m.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111 on **Wednesday April 23, 2008** at 7:30 p.m. to consider a special land use request on the following described property.

Parcel number V125-83-002-99-0026-704, approximately 45.4 acres. This property is located on the east side of Haggerty Road between Ecorse and Van Born Roads. A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below:



The applicant is requesting special use approval. A special use approval is required for outside storage of equipment and supplies per Section 15.03 (d) of the Zoning Ordinance. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00p.m., the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Posted: April 3, 2008
Publish: April 3, 2008

CITY OF ROMULUS
REQUEST TO RECEIVE BIDS
BID 07/08-25 - Mosquito Control Larvacides

The City of Romulus, Michigan is seeking bids from qualified vendors for the above item/items.

- (1) Qualified individuals and firms wishing to submit bids *must do so on forms provided by the City*. Bid forms and specifications may be obtained from Lynn A. Conway, Purchasing Agent, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, by calling (734) 955-4568 or by emailing Iconway@ci.romulus.mi.us or are available to download from the “*Bid Requirements*” section on the City of Romulus Web Site: <http://ci.romulus.mi.us>
- (2) Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes and returned to the **City Clerk’s Office** no later than 3:00 pm, Wednesday, April 16, 2008. At approximately 3:15 all timely received bids are to be publicly opened and read.

BID ENVELOPES MUST BE ADDRESSED:

CITY OF ROMULUS CLERK’S OFFICE
BID 07/08-25 - Mosquito Control Larvacides
11111 Wayne Road,
Romulus, Michigan

- (1) The City reserves the right to reject all bids and proposals and to waive technicalities.
- (2) For additional information contact Lynn A. Conway, City of Romulus Purchasing Agent, by calling (734) 955-4568 or by emailing Iconway@ci.romulus.mi.us

Publish: April 3, 2008

NOTICE
CITY OF ROMULUS

NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF ROMULUS AND THE ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION TO BE HELD TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2008.

To the qualified Electors of the City of Romulus, County of Wayne, State of Michigan:

Notice is hereby given that, in conformity with the “Michigan Election Laws,” I, the undersigned City Clerk, will upon any day EXCEPT Sunday, a legal holiday, and the day of any regular or special election, shall receive for registration the name of any resident not registered, who may APPLY for such registration EXCEPT during the time intervening between the CLOSE of Registration for the General Election and the day of such election.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that voter registrations will be taken at any Secretary of State branch office or, in the Office of the City Clerk, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174-1485 between the hours of:

Monday thru Friday - 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

AND THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER

Monday, April 7, 2008 - 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For the purpose of REVIEWING THE REGISTRATION LIST AND REGISTERING such of the qualified electors that shall properly apply therefore, the name of no person but an ACTUAL RESIDENT of the City of Romulus, at the time of registration, and entitled under the Constitution, if remaining such resident, to vote at the next election shall be entered on the registration list.

Each person registering must possess the following qualifications:

1. Must be a citizen of the United States.
2. Must be 18 years of age on or before May 6, 2008.
3. Must be a resident of the State of Michigan for a least 30 days and a resident of the City of Romulus.

TWO (2) FOUR (4) YEAR TERMS

This Notice is given by order of the City of Romulus and the Board of Education of Romulus Community School , County of Wayne, Michigan.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

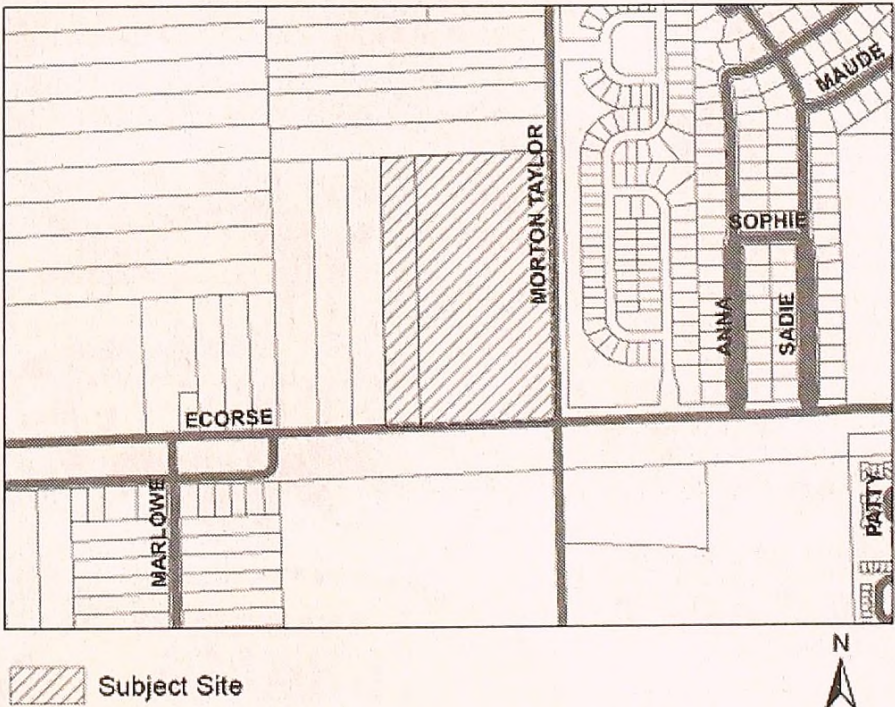
Publish: April 3, 2008

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111 on **Wednesday April 23, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.** to consider a zoning change on the following described property:

Parcel number V125-83-012-99-0028-000 and V125-83-012-99-0027-000 approximately 25 acres proposed to be rezoned from R1-B Single Family Residential to C-1 General Business.

A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



This property is located on the North side of Ecorse Road between Morton Taylor and Sheldon Roads.

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date of April 23, 2008.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Posted: April 3, 2008
Publish: April 3, 2008

SPORTS

Precision Baseball is home run in Canton

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

It was 15 years in the making but now baseball and softball players of all ages can practice year-round.

The concept of an indoor baseball-softball practice facility started in 1992 and finally came to fruition when Precision Baseball celebrated its grand opening in Canton Township on Nov. 18, 2007.

After years of waiting for the right situation, the right location and the right time, co owners Tom DiPonio, Bill Flohr and Jay Alexander opened Precision's doors just four whirlwind weeks after finding the right place.

"There wasn't anything out here like this," said DiPonio, a former

coach at Lahser High School and currently the coach of three travel teams in Dearborn Heights. "We targeted this area because it is big with a big population base. It's right off the freeway, which makes it easily accessible for everyone, too. So, east, west, north and south we're pretty close to everyone."

Precision offers two full-sized infield areas that teams can practice on—baseball or softball. The building also houses three 'Iron Mike' batting cages for rental use along with the infield or for those who just want to come in and hit, according to Flohr.

"A lot of places don't offer that kind of space to practice on," Flohr said. "We give teams an entire infield to work on. So far, there's

been nothing but positive reaction to what we offer."

Precision Baseball offers private lessons from highly experienced instructors.

Alexander is the head coach of the Wayne State University baseball team. Ryan Kelley is Wayne State's pitching coach and Devon Kelley is the head softball coach at the University of Detroit Mercy. Flohr is the assistant coach at Northville High School. Northville head coach John Kostrzewa is also on hand to give lessons.

"That kind of experience adds credibility especially in the private lesson aspect of it because people always ask about the credentials," DiPonio said.

Team training, though, is the one thing that separates Precision from other indoor facilities.

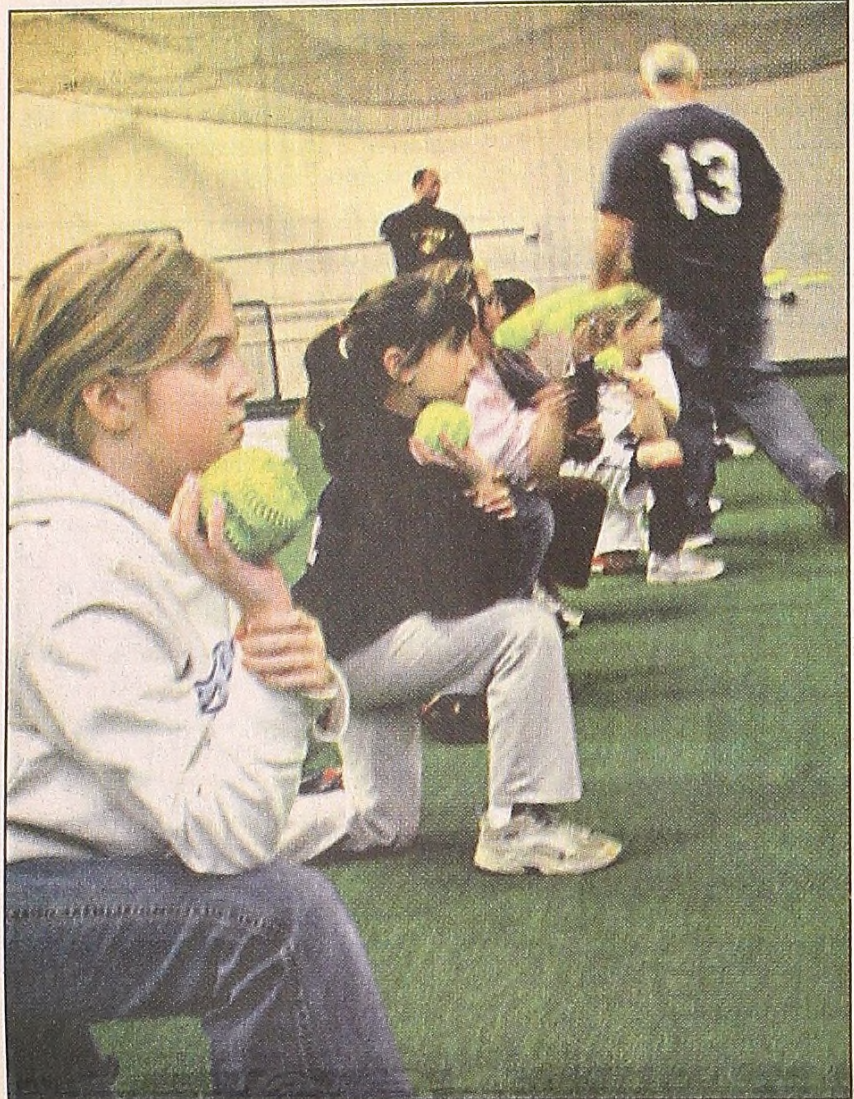
Baseball is also the accredited validation center for ShowcaseU, an Internet college recruiting website.

Players, ages 14 and up, can participate in ShowcaseU camps, where they are put through drills and exercise that are videotaped. Athletes then post the video along with a personal bio, stats and camp evaluations on to a personal showcaseu.com profile for college coaches, scouts and recruiters to see.

"It's a great tool for young athletes," said DiPonio.

Precision offers Hitting League and Speed and Agility Training programs throughout the year.

Precision Baseball is located off of Haggerty between Warren and Joy at 7835 Market Street. For more information call 734-459-5921 or visit www.precisionbaseballone.com.



Canton Pride Coach Tony Gould (13) works on throwing drills with his team at Precision Baseball in Canton Township.

"With the growth of travel baseball and with this being a cold-weather state we decided to differentiate from everybody else," DiPonio said. "Teams have the opportunity to run live drills. They'll run live bunting drills and everything in there. It was designed for teams but individual lessons come from that."

He added that it's perfect for younger teams. That's probably why the 11 Canton Pride fast pitch softball teams climbed aboard at the get-go.

"It's good because they have an open field that you can work on," said Tony Gould, coach of Canton Pride Bressler team. "It's perfect for our 10-year-olds. There are very few places where you can go to work infield. It has a nice floor on it and we can use real balls on it and it's netted very well in here so it's a very safe place for the kids."

Precision

Softball

FROM PAGE 8

along with Dunleavy, Anthony and Rysdorp. He said he is also really impressed with the freshmen.

"I think what we didn't do last year in regionals is hit," said Anthony. "I think we have a better hitting team this year so I think we will do better."

"I think we're definitely coming together," Rago added. "I think there is more talent this year. There are a lot of good hitters. Last year we had just a couple but I think this year there is a lot more so we can count on more people."

Arnold said the team's goal is to make it to the finals every year.

Before that, he said they aim for double-figure wins and single-figure losses—something they've been pretty successful at over the years.

"I'm excited and look forward to every year," he said. "They're learning fast and are an intelligent team. I think once we get a few games under our belt we'll be okay."

"I told them how successful they are depends on how well they play as a team," he added. "If they play as individuals it's going to be a long season."

Canton's first home game, weather permitting, is scheduled for 4 p.m. on Friday, April 11.

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Ⓢ **NIM'S ISLAND** (PG) 11:45, 2:15, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15
FR/SAT LS 11:25
Ⓢ **THE RUINS** (R) 11:10, 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:35
FR/SAT LS 11:40
Ⓢ **SUPERHERO MOVIE** (PG-13) 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40 FR/SAT LS 11:40
Ⓢ **SHOOTER** (PG-13) 2:05, 4:10, 9:10
FR/SAT LS 11:15
TYLER PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13)
12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:05, 9:25
FR/SAT LS 11:45
DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO (G) 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:10, 9:20 FR/SAT LS 11:30
10,000 B.C. (PG-13) 11:25, 6:45

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport
FAR Part 150 Study

Metropolitan Hotel
31500 Wick Road
Romulus, Michigan

April 30, 2008
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. or 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
(Two identical sessions)

Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport is conducting a FAR Part 150 Aircraft Noise and Land Use Compatibility Study. The Study is in its final stages and represents a planning process that includes several entities that have an interest in the Airport.

These differing groups jointly participated in the formulation of specific proposals for noise abatement following a detailed review of noise impacts generated from the current Airport configuration. The public is invited to attend a Public Hearing concerning the Study, forecasts, the existing and future Noise Exposure Maps and the Recommendations of the Study. The Consultants preparing the Study will be available to answer questions in an Open House format, and both verbal and written comments will be accepted by a court reporter. No formal presentation will be made. Written comments will also be accepted for two weeks following the Hearing, until May 14, 2008. Written comments can be sent to the Noise Manager, Michelle Plawecki, at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, LC Smith Terminal – Mezzanine, Detroit, MI 48242. A copy of the Recommendations Chapter is available for public review in the Airport Administrative offices at the above address and at the Airport Authority website www.metroairport.com. Pre-arranged appointments can be made by calling (734) 955-3280.

Publish: April 3, 2008

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THE SCENE



Reviewed By
Jennifer Busch
Staff Writer

STOP-LOSS

Ambiguity of message detracts from film

Most great anti-war films have the luxury of hindsight. Never is this so evident as in Kimberly Pierce's uneven drama, *Stop-Loss*, which tries to bring home the waste and confusion of the Iraq War without impugning the war itself.

Although the film offers enough solid acting and plot turns to warrant a viewing, it is ultimately doomed by ambiguity, turning a potential cinematic milestone into just another uneasy vehicle to expose an impossible situation.

The film, begins with a group of soldiers returning from Iraq to their native Texas town. Sgt. Brandon King (played by Ryan Phillippe) finds out that he's been 'stop-loss' by the U.S. govern-

ment, a backdoor policy which requires soldiers who have already completed their tours go back into active duty.

Bound back to the battlefield in a month, King decides to fight what he feels is an unfair breach of his government contract and goes AWOL (absent without official leave).

With the help of his best friend's fiancé Michelle (Abbie Cornish), King heads for Washington to appeal to his senator's sense of fair play, wreaking havoc on the morale of his friends back home, and discovering that closure can never come at the expense of honor.

Phillippe, in a rare emotional role, does a good job with the frantic King, although he is almost

overshadowed by Cornish, who turns in a brilliant performance as the long suffering fiancé. No longer believing in the war or her fiancé, who re-enlists without her knowledge, Michelle seems on a quest for closure herself, helping to save King as a way of saving herself. Her sad acceptance of the ruin the war has inflicted on her family reverberates throughout the entire film. That none of these characters ever seem to make the next leap into bitterness, feels both honest and tragic.

It's difficult to make an anti-war film without knowing whether or not you believe in the war to begin with. This film seems to tap into some of the ambiguity of the American public, insisting that



every soldier is a hero, but reluctant to take the next step and suggest that maybe heroism itself is a little overrated.

Pierce talks the talk, but when it comes down to it, she can never

quite bring herself to suggest that maybe the best way to support our troops is simply to bring them home.

It's not an easy stand to take, but it's the difference between a good film and a great one.

Tipping Point to present 'Manuscript'

Jennifer Busch
Staff Writer

The tangled web of white-collar ambition rears its ugly head, when Paul Grellong's *Manuscript* opens at Northville's Tipping Point Theater April 26.

The psychological drama, premiering for the first time in Michigan, is a change of pace for the theater group, which has focused on lighter fare throughout the first season.

Executive Director Christina Johnson said that she felt the dark comedy was a good way to round out the artistic palate, and an important part of gauging audience interest.

"This season is kind of our litmus test," Johnson said.

"We've done three comedies, and this is our first show that's more of a drama. Of the plays we've done, it's probably the most contemporary piece. We're trying to structure a well-round-

ed season, with something in it for everyone. We wanted a farcical comedy, a lighter, heart-felt comedy, a musical, and a more dramatic piece. This is a show that really makes you think, with a lot of comedic aspects. We don't want to do the same types of shows all the time."

"This show is a really juicy piece," Johnson said. "There's a lot for people to sink their teeth into. Plus we have a few fresh, new actors who have made their mark in other theaters, and who we're very happy to have. I think people will get a real kick out of the story. It's very well written. I think the audience is ready for something different."

Manuscript will be presented at 8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at Tipping Point Theater from April 26-May 24. Sunday shows are at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$18- \$36. For more information please call (248) 347-0003.

High School Musical

Westland students present popular play

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

The sounds of laughter and gossip filled the air at John Glenn High School in Westland last Thursday, but the cause was anything but typical.

For the past several weeks, the John Glenn Theatrical Guild has been rehearsing for upcoming performances of *Disney's High School Musical*.

The show, which is based upon the Emmy-award winning Disney Channel original movie of the same name, is a modern-day version of Romeo and Juliet focused on two high school juniors. When the fictitious East High School hosts auditions for its annual musical, its social cliques go up in arms when the captain of the school basketball team Troy Bolton, who will be played by Joseph Franklin Blouse,

and 'brainiac' Gabriella Montez, to be played by Lauracindy Plague, try out for the lead roles. The teens must stand firm despite significant peer pressure as members of rival cliques attempt to undermine their efforts.

The extensive story told in *High School Musical*, which drama teacher and co-director Sheri Grove selected for the students last year, calls for an usually large cast of 42 students and faculty to perform.

"We have a great group of kids this year," said Belinda Walakonis-Semak, co-director of the show. "This is the best production we've ever done."

From rehearsal materials to logos, she said that many of the things they needed to create the production were readily available.

"Disney has been awesome about everything," she said.

However, Walakonis-Semak cautioned that residents shouldn't expect the show to be identical to the film version because although the movie is "a great reference", it is the vision of the director that ultimately guides the stage production.

The John Glenn Theatrical Guild will perform Disney's *High School Musical* at 7 p.m. on April 10-12 as well as a matinee show at 1 p.m. April 12. Performances will take place in the John Glenn High School auditorium, located at 36105 Marquette Road between Wayne and Newburgh roads in Westland. Tickets are \$8 for students and \$12 for adults. Tickets may be purchased in advance in the John Glenn High School office from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday beginning March 31. Ticket information is also available by calling (734) 419-2342.



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